AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently amended) A method comprising:

initiating, by an active device on behalf of a group of devices, a downloading session to a group address associated with the group of devices, wherein the group of devices includes the active device and a plurality of passive devices, wherein initiating includes downloading a file to be transmitted as a plurality of packets of data by ~~an~~ the active device and a first set of the plurality of passive devices;

checking, by a second set of the plurality of passive devices, for packet gaps once the download of the file is completed ~~when the active device has completed download of the packets of data, each of the plurality of passive devices check for a packet gap~~, wherein the packet gap occurs if the file size is known and a number of packets of the plurality of packets are lost~~, wherein a~~ and a total size of the number of lost packets is less than a pre-selected amount, wherein checking includes tracking a continuity of two or more package gaps; and

promoting one or more of the second set of the plurality of passive devices to being one or more smart devices if the packet gap is detected for the one or more of the second set of the plurality of passive devices.

2.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein initiating comprises multicasting to the multiple clients using a multicast Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP).

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein downloading occurs during a pre-boot phase of the active device.

5.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the file comprises a boot image for the active device.

Claims 6-18   (Cancelled)

19.   (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for initiating, by an active device on behalf of a group of devices, a downloading session to a group address associated with the group of devices, wherein the group of devices includes the active device and a plurality of passive devices, wherein initiating includes downloading a file to be transmitted as a plurality of packets of data by an the active device and a first set of the plurality of passive devices;

means for checking, by a second set of the plurality of passive devices, for packet gaps once the download of the file is completedwhen the active device has completed download of the packets of data, each of the plurality of passive devices check for a packet gap, wherein the packet gap occurs if the file size is known and a number of packets of the plurality of packets are lost, wherein a and a total size of the number of lost packets is less than a pre-selected amount; and

means for promoting one or more of the second set of the plurality of passive devices to being one or more smart devices if the packet gap is detected for the one or more of the second set of the plurality of passive devices.

20.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein initiating comprises means for multicasting to the multiple clients using a multicast Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP).

21.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein downloading occurs during a pre-boot phase of the active device.

22.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the file comprises a

boot image for the active device.

23.   (Currently amended) A system comprising:

one or more processors;

a network interface coupled with the one or more processors; and

computer-readable medium coupled with the one or more processors having

stored thereon instructions that, when executed, cause one or more processors to

initiate, by an active device on behalf of a group of devices, a downloading

session to a group address associated with the group of devices, wherein the group of

devices includes the active device and a plurality of passive devices, wherein initiating

includes downloading a file to be transmitted as a plurality of packets of data by ~~an~~ the

active device and a first set of the plurality of passive devices;

check, by a second set of the plurality of passive devices, for packet gaps once the

download of the file is completed~~when the active device has completed download of the~~

~~packets of data, each of the plurality of passive devices check for a packet gap~~, wherein

the packet gap occurs if the file size is known and a number of packets of the plurality of

packets are lost~~, wherein a~~ and a total size of the number of lost packets is less than a pre-

selected amount; and

promote one or more of the second set of the plurality of passive devices to being

one or more smart devices if the packet gap is detected for the one or more of the second

set of the plurality of passive devices.

24.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the one or more

processors are further caused to initiate comprises multicasting to the multiple clients

using a multicast Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP).

25.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein downloading occurs

during a pre-boot phase of the active device.

26.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the file comprises a boot

image for the active device.